August 2025 Newsletter
collegeapp101.com

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The Ideal Months to Apply to College

The English speaking world is fortunate to possess thousands of colleges within its orbit. Each has its own policies in admissions and enrollment. With that said, many colleges use August 1 as the day that they begin accepting applications for the following fall. This means current seniors (members of the high school class of 2026) will begin submitting their applications for Fall 2026 enrollment in August 2025. It is, therefore, appropriate to ask, what are the best months for a college bound senior to submit his applications?

The earlier, the better. The closer to August 1, the better. Put differently: shortly after his colleges begin accepting applications for his targeted term of enrollment. Applying early demonstrates high interest in a college, personal organization, and the ability to act and follow through quickly. If he is unable to apply in August, then he should apply by the college's Early Action deadline (if the college has one). A common Early Action deadline is November 1. When a student applies Early Action, the student enters into a non-binding agreement with a college. He may apply to as many colleges in an Early Action capacity as he desires. In general, Early Action applicants are viewed as more enthusiastic about a particular college. And admissions rates are higher for Early Action applicants than applicants, who apply after the Early Action deadline.

For many college bound students, senior year is a disorienting, stressful experience. Students are blindsided by unanticipated challenges and obstacles. Additionally, they come to realize the expectations that others have for their senior year experience and future. Demonstrating proactivity in college applications creates a smoother senior year experience.

In sum, a college bound senior should prioritize August for college application submission. If that is simply not possible, the student should use September or October to submit all applications. Sure, he may apply after those months right up until a college's deadline (December 1, early January, and February 1 are common deadlines). But he runs the risk of appearing less interested in a college or, in some cases, winning admission to a college, while failing to win admission to his first choice major. Families, who have a high school student in need of application guidance, should reach out directly to College App 101 at info@collegeapp101.com.

Newest College App 101 Service

College App 101 is excited to announce a new career aptitude service: Career Planning Session. This service is for students, who do not know what college major to declare or career path to pursue. The Career Planning Session is a meeting to discuss a high school student's prospective career choices and the education that such career prospects require.

A pre-meeting assessment is required. Connect with Dr. Riley at collegeapp101.com and request more information today.

College App 101 Podcasts

Designed for college bound high school students and their parents, these podcasts are brief, informational, and entertaining. They are available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and collegeapp101.com/podcasts/. Recent episodes:

- When to Prepare for Highly Selective Admissions
- The Role of Parents in College Admissions
- Hats Off to the Class of 2025
- Interview with a Business Owner

Dates to Remember

- Aug 1: regular registration deadline for the Sept 6 ACT
- Aug 8: regular registration deadline for the Aug 23 SAT
- Aug 12: late registration deadline for the Aug 23 SAT (fee increase)
- Aug 19: late registration deadline for the Sept 6 ACT (fee increase)
- Aug 23: SAT test day
- Aug 29: regular registration deadline for the Sept 13 SAT
- Sept 2: late registration deadline for the Sept 13 SAT (fee increase)
- Sept 6: ACT test day
- Sept 12: regular registration deadline for the Oct 18 ACT
- Sept 13: SAT test day
- Sept 19: regular registration deadline for the Oct 4 SAT
- Sept 24: late registration deadline for the Oct 4 SAT (fee increase)
- Sept 30: late registration deadline for the Oct 18 ACT (fee increase)

Past College App 101 Newsletters

Past editions of the College App 101 Newsletter can be found here.